



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deicing and Plowing Continue as Crews Prep for Possible Freezing Rain

Motorist are finding more areas of dry pavement today as the packed snow and ice give way to warmer temperatures and effective deicing efforts by Eugene Public Works staff. Crews are switching gears from sanding, that is most beneficial in sub-zero temperatures, to deicing that is ideal in today's conditions. Plows will then be able to remove the slushy mixture from the roadways.

24 hour operations began last Friday and crews continue to work around the clock deicing, plowing and sanding priority routes. Overnight lows remain a challenge as the moisture on the roads surfaces simply refreezes, causing potential hazards with black ice. Motorists are advised to use caution when on the road, allowing safe following distance and ample time to get to their destination.

Public Works crews also have been working to clear sidewalk access ramps in the downtown area in front of City buildings, as well as in front of schools in the 4J and Bethel districts. Property owners citywide are responsible for keeping sidewalks safe adjacent to their property. Similar to street conditions, in areas of heavy foot traffic the snow has been compacted into an icy mass that can be very difficult to remove with a hand shovel.

Since Dec. 6, Public Works has applied approximately 725 cubic yards of sand and 4,300 gallons of liquid deicer and logged 1,600 personnel hours responding to the storm. Total response expenditures to date exceed \$100,000.

Crews have begun clearing catch basins of debris and accumulated snow in anticipation of snow melt runoff.

Public Works crews are preparing for possible freezing rain tomorrow. Ice accumulation on tree limbs can cause limbs to break. Crews are readying vehicles and chainsaws to be ready to respond if needed.

The ice-snow emergency parking ban remains in effect and will continue to be evaluated on a day-to-day basis.

For additional information about the ice-snow emergency, go to www.eugene-or.gov/snow. To report hazardous situations in the public rights of way, call 541-682-4800 or online at www.eugene-or.gov/pwservice. Requests for service will be responded to based on public safety priorities and availability of resources.

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